What is Claimed is:

1. A method for forcibly regenerating a catalytic regeneration type particulate filter in an exhaust pipe through which exhaust gas flows, by adding fuel to the exhaust gas upstream of the particulate filter, the added fuel being oxidized on a flow-through type oxidation catalyst before the particulate filter to produce exothermic heat with which captured and accumulated particulates in the particulate filter are burned off, thereby forcibly regenerating the particulate filter, the method comprising, in light-load engine operation areas upon forcible regeneration of the particulate filter, intentionally increasing an engine load by load adding means and increasing an amount of fuel injected so as to compensate reduced torque due to the increased engine load.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein a retarder is adopted as said load adding means, said retarder being activated, with an accelerator pedal retaining its on-state, in light-load engine operation areas upon forcible regeneration of the particulate filter.

3. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein, upon activation of the retarder, with the accelerator pedal

retaining its on-state, in light-load engine operation areas for forcible regeneration of the particulate filter, an entrance temperature of the flow-through type oxidization catalyst is detected and a load on the retarder is feedback-controlled so as to raise a temperature detected up to a target value required for catalytic activity.

4. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein, upon activation of the retarder, with the accelerator pedal retaining its on-state, in light-load engine operation areas for forcible regeneration of the particulate filter, and when a clutch is off, an intake flow rate is decreased and the amount of fuel injected is increased so as to compensate reduction of the torque due to such decreased intake flow rate.

5. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein, upon activation of the retarder, with the accelerator pedal retaining its on-state, in light-load engine operation areas for forcible regeneration of the particulate filter, and when a clutch is off, an intake flow rate is decreased and the amount of fuel injected is increased so as to compensate reduction of the torque due to such decreased intake flow rate.